Bonn en-route to the G-15 Summit in Jamaica;

(b) if so, whether this decision was in protest against Germany's comments on attacks on Christians in Gujarat; and

(c) if not, the reasons for cancelling the visit?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The visit could not take place for reasons connected with the programme an scheduling.

Decision on CTBT

360. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned as 'India to sign CTBT in return for lifting sanctions: USA' Published in "Statesman" dated February 3, 1999;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that Mr. James Rubin, the State Department spokesman virtually endorsed the outcome of the talks between the Foreign Minister, Shri Jaswant Singh and the U.S. Deputy Secretary of State, Mr. Strobe Talbott; and

(c) if so, the response of Government thereto and the reasons for Government to give such a commitment without having national consultation and evolving a consensus?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In State Department briefing on February 1, 1999, the US Spokesman James Rubin Characterised the Indo-US dialogue as "productive" and mentioned that it "generated new momentum"

(c) Government's position on the CTBT is determined purely by considerations of national interest. The building of a national consensus will continue to guide the Government's approach to the CTBT.

The Indian position regarding CTBT remains as stated by the Prime Minister in UNGA in September, 1998 "India, having harmonised its national imperatives and security obligations and desirous of continuing to cooperate with the international community is now engaged in discussions with key interlocutors on a range of issues, including the CTBT. We are prepared to bring these discussions to a successful conclusion, so that the entry into force of the CTBT is not delayed beyond September 1999. We expect that other countries, as indicated in Article XIV of the CTBT, will adhere to this treaty without conditions."

India's Signing of CTBT

361. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:
SHRI PARAG CHALIHA:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in the Hindustan Times dated 3rd February, 1999 captioned "India ready to sign test ban treaty, Talbott tells Albright" before September 1999 in return for lifting some of the more stringent sanctions imposed after its nuclear tests last May;

(b) if so, what are the details of eighth round of Indo-US talks held, recently in New Delhi and outcome thereof; and

(c) whether Government of India are working to build a consensus and likely to bring this matter before the Parliament during its Budget Session before signing the CTBT?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) The Hindustan Times dated February 3, 1999 reported that US State Department Spokesman Mr. James Rubin confirmed that Talbott "has discussed this with the Secretary (Albright) and there are some indications that the Indians are going to move in a direction that will allow us to respond with moves of our own".

(b) India and the US have been engaged in a high-level intensive dialogue since June 1998. The latest round of Indo-US talks was recently held in New Delhi from January 29—31, 1999.

The Indian side was led by Shri Jaswant Singh, External Affairs Minister. The US delegation was led by US Deputy Secretary of State, Mr. Strobe Talbott. The main interlocutors have been designated to conduct the dialogue as representatives of the Prime Minister of India and the President of USA respectively. A compact team of officials from both sides assisted the two leaders.

The talks were conducted over three days in plenary sessions as well as smaller groups of designated officials. In addition, Mr. Strobe Talbott also called on the PM, RM and leaders of some political parties.

The talks are being conducted on the basis of comprehensive proposals that India put forward on disarmament and non-proliferation matters, namely a unilateral moratorium on explosive nuclear tests, willingness to discuss converting it into a de jure obligation, decision to enter into constructive negotiations on the FMCT and reaffirming our policies on stringent control on export of sensitive technologies.

After several rounds the talks had narrowed and are now focussed on four issues related to security, disarmament and non-proliferation namely CTBT, FMCT, Export Controls and Defence Posture.

Both delegations have expressed satisfaction over the outcome of the talks. As in earlier meetings, the security perspectives of the two sides were further clarified with a view to harmonising respective perspectives.

It has been decided that Indian-US expert level teams will meet in March for follow-up talks on export controls. The leaders of the delegations will also remain in contact. While these talks continue, both sides will endeavour to create a positive atmosphere for advancing their relations.

(c) Government's position on the CTBT is determined purely by considerations of national interest. The building of a national consensus will continue to guide the Government's approach to the CTBT.

The Indian position regarding CTBT remains as stated by the Prime Minister in UNGA in September, 1998 "India, having harmonised its national imperatives and security obligations and desirous of continuing to cooperate with the international community is now engaged in discussions with key interlocutors on a range of issues, including the CTBT. We are prepared to bring these discussions to a successful conclusion, so that the entry into force of the CTBT is not delayed beyond September 1999. We expect that other countries, as indicated in Article XIV of the CTBT, will adhere to this treaty without conditions".

भारत में घुसपैठ

362. **श्री नरेन्द्र मोहन:** क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) भारत में विदेशी नागरिकों के संबंध में कानून की क्या स्थिति है;

(ख) भारत में विदेशियों और घुसपैठियों की कुल संख्या कितनी है; और